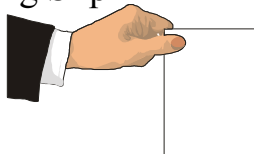


## WINTER 2003

## Routing Slip

\_\_\_\_ Managers  
 \_\_\_\_ Supervisors  
 \_\_\_\_ Mechanics  
 \_\_\_\_ Drivers



Please share the **Passenger TransActions** with other members of your staff. Don't let it get buried on your desk.

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## MDOT Welcomes New Director

In January, Gov. Jennifer Granholm appointed Gloria Jeff as the new director of the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). Ms. Jeff returns to the department where she previously worked for twelve years, including five years as deputy director of Planning. She also worked for the old Southeast Michigan Transportation Association (SEMTA) before joining MDOT.

In 1997, President Clinton appointed Jeff as deputy federal highway administrator. Jeff, who originally hails from Detroit, received both her M.S.E. in civil engineering and a double master's degree in urban planning and civil engineering from the University of Michigan.

## DARTA Legislation is High Priority for MDOT

In the closing hours of the 2001-2002 session of the Michigan Legislature, bills that would have created a new regional transportation authority in Southeast Michigan were approved by the House and Senate and sent to Gov. John Engler for signature. However, former Gov. Engler vetoed the bills, providing Gov. Jennifer Granholm the opportunity to re-engage with the Legislature and stakeholders on this important topic. Passage of the DARTA legislation is a high priority for MDOT.

The proposed legislation will establish a new regional transportation authority - called the Detroit Area Regional Transportation Authority - in five counties in the Detroit area. The initial membership will be all counties, cities, townships, villages, and local government consortiums within a region comprised of Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, Washtenaw, and Wayne counties.

The new authority will replace the Regional Transit Coordinating Council (RTCC), which has planning and coordination functions and serves as the recipient of state and federal funds and passes the funds through to the

(continued on page 11)

## **FTA Approves Job Access/ Reverse Commute Application**

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) approved the rural application submitted for the third year of the Job Access/Reverse Commute (JARC) program. The total funds approved were \$814,408 (\$656,837 for operating and \$157,571 for capital). The projects are for continuation of services previously approved in JARC applications. Seven projects, representing 11 rural counties, were included in the application. The counties were: Alger, Allegan, Berrien/Cass/Van Buren, Ionia, Lake/Mason/Oceana, Eaton, and Midland.

Each project demonstrates a collaborative effort with local partners in the development of the project proposal. The projects maximize the use of existing public transportation resources and demonstrate the use of a wide range of transportation providers, such as public, private, and specialized services agencies. They also demonstrate how the need will be met for long distance travel from rural areas to employment sites.

## **MIOSHA Amends Three Rules**

Check out the Department of Consumer and Industry Services (CIS) Web site for amendments to the following rules:

- Administrative Standard Part 11 Recording and Reporting of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses. Effective December 3, 2002. This rule was amended to issue new recording requirements for work-related hearing loss and correct clerical errors.
- Occupational Health Standard Part 350 Carcinogens. Effective September 27, 2002. This rule was amended to update and consolidate two previous standards: OH Rule 2301 and OH Rule 2302.
- Occupational Health Standard Part 501 Agricultural Operations. Effective December 11, 2002. This rule was amended to update OH Rule 5007.

Standards can be obtained from the CIS Web site at [www.michigan.gov/cis](http://www.michigan.gov/cis). Select "Workplace Safety and Health" from the left navigation bar, then "Standards and Legislation." If you have any questions or have problems downloading the Web site files, phone 517/322-1845.



## **Compuware's New World Headquarters Launches "Commuter Center"**

In an effort to help facilitate safe and efficient commutes for its relocated employees, Compuware Corporation established a "commuter center" at its new world headquarters in downtown Detroit. The commuter center will be staffed and managed by VPSI, Incorporated of Troy, Michigan.

The Compuware Commuter Center will broker a myriad of employee transportation services directly to the workforce, including ridematching, carpool and vanpool formation, and the sale of "Express Passes" on area SMART buses. The center will also offer ancillary services, such as a guaranteed ride home program and the coordination of special event employee transportation.

"We are excited about the opportunity to serve Compuware by bringing viable commuting options directly to their employees," said VPSI President Jeff Henning. "The cornerstone of the commuter center concept is having one of our trained transportation professionals stationed at our client's worksite. Compuware employees and the City of Detroit are fortunate to work with an employer that has the vision to deliver a full range of employee transportation solutions to its workforce," Henning added.

The Compuware Commuter Center began operation February 3 in time for employees to learn about their commuting options prior to relocating to the new site on Woodward and Monroe Avenues. Cecilia Cannon, a VPSI employee from its North Los Angeles office, will manage the commuter center and is experienced in serving large accounts like Countrywide Home Loans and Jet Propulsion Laboratories. She also assisted Cardservice International during its relocation and brings these crucial employee transportation and client management skills to the new Compuware position.

VPSI operates commuter centers in the United States, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and the Republic of Ireland for companies like Oracle, Cisco Systems, Wyeth Pharmaceuticals, and the British Airport Authority (BAA). The Compuware Commuter Center will be the first of its kind in Michigan and will work in collaboration with MDOT to make the program a model which other major employers can duplicate when undertaking relocations or consolidations.

## **Around the State**

### **Niles Dial-A-Ride Spreads Holiday Cheer!**

In December, Niles Dial-a-Ride provided area residents with a Christmas lights tour. The tour rides were provided free of charge thanks to Mayor Mike McCauslin, City Administrator Terry Eull, and the Dial-A-Ride staff. Also, during December all trolley rides were free on Fridays.



### **City of Hancock Starts New Dial-A-Ride Service**

Please join us in welcoming the City of Hancock to the public transit family. The city kicked off its new dial-a-ride service on January 13, 2003 and it has been going strong ever since. The city worked cooperatively with the city of Houghton to assure great service to both cities.

Gail Ross is the manager of the new four-bus system in Hancock. You may contact Gail at 906/482-3252 if you'd like to offer your congratulations or words of wisdom.

### **St. Clair County Coordination Study Done**

The coordination study of transportation services in St. Clair County is posted at [www.michigan.gov/mdotptd](http://www.michigan.gov/mdotptd) under Publications. The study was prepared for the Blue Water Area Transportation Commission using Service Development and New Technology Program funding.

If you would like additional information about this study, please contact Vince Ranger at 248/483-5130 or [rangerv@michigan.gov](mailto:rangerv@michigan.gov).

### **Lake Erie Breaks Ground on New Transfer Station**

What was just a dream twelve years ago will soon become reality. Ground breaking for Lake Erie Transit Commission's new transfer station was January 24, and completion is expected by August 2003.

General Manager Mark Jagodzinski states, "The transfer station will provide a safe, off the street area for our passengers to transfer and a climate controlled waiting room for the passengers. Our dispatch offices will also be moved to the new transfer station."

The transfer station is located at Telegraph and Fredericks in Monroe. The estimated construction cost is \$1,700,000 from Section 5309 funds. (*Information for this article provided by the Winter 2002 edition of the Bus Bench, Lake Erie Transit's newsletter.*)

### **Comings and Goings in Charlevoix**

A fond farewell to Oral Sutliff who retired from Charlevoix County Public Transit after many years of dedicated service. Oral says he will miss public transit, but is looking forward to being a full-time grandpa! We will miss Oral's kind, smiling face at our events and wish him a truly joy-filled retirement.

Congratulations to Gene Beer who has been promoted to succeed Oral as manager of the transit system. Gene brings many years of experience with him to the position, as well as the respect of his peers and coworkers. Gene is also a very talented woodworker/artist. If you're ever in the neighborhood make sure you stop in and check out his amazing creations. Congratulations, Gene!

The Passenger TransActions is a quarterly news bulletin produced by the Michigan Department of Transportation, Passenger Transportation Division for the public transit providers in Michigan. Suggestions or comments may be sent to Jill Adams, MDOT/Passenger Transportation Division, P.O. Box 30050, Lansing, Michigan 48909, or call 517/373-2051 (e-mail: [adamsji@michigan.gov](mailto:adamsji@michigan.gov)). The Passenger TransActions is also available online at [www.michigan.gov/mdotptd](http://www.michigan.gov/mdotptd) - latest issue under Publications. Alternative formats such as large print, braille, or audio-tape are available upon request by calling Stu Lindsay 517/335-2598 (e-mail: [lindsays@michigan.gov](mailto:lindsays@michigan.gov)). Total quarterly cost to print 500 copies: \$72.75 (\$0.15 per copy).

## Sign Up Now for PTD Advisory Teams

Historically, advisory teams have provided input and feedback to the Passenger Transportation Division (PTD) on its programs and activities. Recently, we reviewed the advisory teams and decided to narrow the teams down to four to help us better serve our customers. The advisory teams are as follows.

Emerging Issues Team - provides guidance, input, and feedback on topics that warrant discussion in the development of public transit policy, programs, and procedures.

Specialized Services Coordination Team - provides state agency, provider and user perspectives regarding the provision of all transportation program services, and makes recommendations for improvement in the coordination of transportation services, including services for the elderly and people with disabilities.

Training and Education Team - proposes solutions to common local bus transit training challenges that may be best met on a statewide, coordinated basis.

Vehicle and Equipment Team - reviews and makes recommendations on transit vehicle and equipment issues, including development of specifications, maintenance programs, and vehicle and equipment training activities.

We are reconstituting the membership of the PTD advisory teams, and we hope to have representatives from both urban and rural areas on each team. In addition, we are soliciting consumers and other stakeholders to serve on the teams. In late January, a letter was mailed to all transit agencies, specialized services providers, and stakeholders inviting both old and new members to serve on these advisory teams.

If you require additional information on the advisory teams, contact Lisa Funk at 517/373-8746 or [funkl@michigan.gov](mailto:funkl@michigan.gov).

## MDOT's New State Long Range Plan Available

In late December, MDOT released the "State Long Range Plan (SLRP) 2000-2025 - Mobility is Security." The plan is a culmination of several years' work and provides a plan for investments in Michigan's transportation programs using federal funds.

The plan was developed with feedback gathered at many public meetings held throughout the state, along with the help of a customers and providers advisory committee. The SLRP outlines eight major goals:

- preserve our current mobility;
- modernize the transportation system;
- improve the management of our transportation assets at all levels;
- improve the safety and security of our transportation system;
- improve intermodal connections between modes of transportation;
- improve connections and continuity within modes of transportation;
- identify transportation revenues for the future; and,
- implement the State Long Range Plan throughout the MDOT regions.

To request a printed copy of the SLRP, its Executive Summary, or a CD-ROM (requires Windows 95/NT or later), contact MDOT's Planning Bureau at 517/373-9584. The entire plan can be viewed in PDF format at [www.michigan.gov/slrp](http://www.michigan.gov/slrp).

**Michigan Department of Transportation**  
Gloria Jeff, Director  
**Multi-Modal Transportation Services**  
Rob Abent, Bureau Director  
**Passenger Transportation Division**  
Sharon Edgar, Administrator  
**Transportation Commission**  
Ted B. Wahby, Chairman  
Betty Jean Awrey, Vice Chairwoman  
Lowell B. Jackson  
John W. Garside  
C. Robert Baillod  
Robert G. Bender

## **Training News**

### **Michigan Transit Training Network Supplements Transit Training**

The Michigan Transit Training Network is a cooperative effort between MDOT/PTD, Wayne State University, and PTD's Training and Education Advisory Team. The network was established to supplement transit agency training needs in a uniform manner. The objectives of the training network are:

- to improve the quality of service provided by local public transit agencies, including specialized services agencies;
- to increase the knowledge, skills and abilities of all transit agency employees, in order to provide safe, reliable and low cost public transportation services to Michigan's citizens;
- to improve efficiency and cost effectiveness of MDOT's training efforts.

PTD's Training and Education Advisory Team has identified several initial training initiatives as part of the training network. Training initiatives in the network include:

- *Michigan Transit Training Network Web site* - Develop and maintain a transit training Web site to post various training topics, training calendar, resources, bulletin board, and links.
- *Resource Center* - Establish and maintain a training resource center for use by local transit agencies.
- *Mentoring Program* - Establish and maintain an online mentoring program directory which lists the names and phone numbers of individuals who have been designated as "mentors" in a variety of areas.
- *Transit Training* - Develop and implement a statewide train the trainer program for transit agencies offering regional workshops on a variety of topics.
- *Rural Transit Assistance Program (RTAP)* - Review the current Grant/Scholarship program.

As a first step, the team has recommended that a *Basic Train the Trainer* session and three *Passenger Assistance Techniques Train the Trainer* sessions be scheduled.

*Basic Train the Trainer*: this session is geared to new transit trainers with minimal training skills. The class will help new trainers develop, deliver and document a world-class transit training effort. The class is limited to 25 participants and first preference will be given to new trainers. Experienced trainers will be registered based on seating availability. We are still

finalizing dates and location, so watch your mailbox for registration information.

*Passenger Assistance Techniques Train the Trainer*: these sessions will be geared to both new and experienced trainers and will cover driver sensitivity, wheelchair types and securement, crisis management, evacuation techniques and emergency procedures, bloodborne pathogens protection, seizure disorders, passenger abuse and neglect, and other passenger assistance issues. Dates and locations have not yet been established, so watch your mailbox for details.

If you would like additional information on the Michigan Transit Training Network or the Training and Education Advisory Team, please contact Jill Adams at 517/373-2051 (e-mail: [adamsji@michigan.gov](mailto:adamsji@michigan.gov)).

### **MASSTrans Sponsors Two Training Activities**

MASSTrans is sponsoring two training opportunities for Michigan transit agencies. If you need more information on either of these trainings, contact Vance Edwards at Cadillac/Wexford Transit Authority, (231/775-9411).

February 27, 2003: Managing Leaves of Absence and Ask the Lawyer, Delta College Planetarium, Bay City. Cost: \$75 per person.

March 12, 2003: Managing Disruptive Customers, Doherty Hotel, Clare. Cost: \$50 per person.

## **Transit Trainers Workshop Scheduled in Salt Lake City**

Where can your transit trainer boost his/her professional skills and get new training ideas and programs that will save your transit agency both development time and money? At the National Transit Institute's (NTI) 10<sup>th</sup> annual Transit Trainers Workshop, of course.

Dates for the workshop are April 7-9, 2003 in Salt Lake City, and this year's theme is: "Discovering New Frontiers in Training." The workshop is an opportunity for trainers from across the country to network and meet experts in the industry, and take home new skills, proven models, and valuable resources.

But wait – there's more! There are exciting pre-sessions on April 5 and 6, which include training on: safety and security, violence in the transit workplace, instructional design for beginning trainers, successful safety strategies, driver fatigue and stress awareness, and creating gold-medal customer service training.

But all work and no play results in a very dull time. So, there are several evening networking events scheduled to help your transit trainer get acquainted with transit trainers from across the country. So, visit [www.ntionline.com](http://www.ntionline.com) and click on Transit Trainers Workshop for all the information on this exciting training opportunity.

## **Mark Your Calendars for the TV&E Seminar**

Make your plans now to attend the Transit Vehicle and Equipment Seminar at Higgins Lake, Michigan, June 11-13, 2003. Come get all the latest information on keeping your transit vehicles in tip top condition. On June 11, you can visit over 40 vendors displaying the newest transit vehicles and equipment at the Transit Vehicle and Equipment Show.

Watch your mailbox for registration information in April. Contact Jill Adams at 517/373-2051 (e-mail: [adamsji@michigan.gov](mailto:adamsji@michigan.gov)) if you need any additional information or would like to provide input about the seminar.

## **ACT Hosts Professional Development Sessions**

The Association for Commuter Transportation (ACT) - Michigan Chapter is pleased to host two professional development sessions. For program information, please contact Mary Ann Young, chapter president, at 616/774-1167 (e-mail: [myoung@ridetherapid.org](mailto:myoung@ridetherapid.org)).

April 30, 2003: How to Effectively Plan a Meeting, Kalamazoo, MI.

June 25, 2003: Who Moved My Cheese?, Brighton, MI.

## **Saddle Up Pardner, the ROADEO is coming to town!**

It's time to get ready for the biggest darn Roadeo on four wheels! Bully is loaded in the chute and will be raring to go July 16, 2003 at the Valley Plaza Resort in Midland.

The Michigan Public Transit Association will be donating prize money for the top three drivers and the top "Rookie." The prizes are \$200 for first place, \$150 for second place, \$100 for third place and a \$50 prize for the best score by a rookie driver.



The top three drivers will represent Michigan at the 2004 National Roadeo in Seattle, Washington (trip expenses will be reimbursed through the Michigan Rural Transit Assistance Program). There's also prize money for the agencies with the top team winner and the first place individual winner.

So round up your best and bravest drivers who think they are a match for Bully. We need all yer drivers to make the 2003 Michigan Small Bus Roadeo a huge success. The registration information will be in the mail to ya'll by the second week of May. If you need any additional information or would like to provide input about the Roadeo, contact Lisa Lubahn at 517/241-1893 (e-mail: [lubahnl@michigan.gov](mailto:lubahnl@michigan.gov)). See ya there!



## PTD Welcomes Three New Employees

Matt Blackledge is a new analyst in the Technical Assistance and Regulatory Section's Technical Assistance Unit. He is responsible for coordinating the statewide Vehicle Maintenance Monitoring Program for over 120 transit agencies.

Matt will also implement state/federal initiatives on transit safety and security and is responsible for the Small Bus Rehabilitation Program, Local Vehicle Purchase Program, Michigan Transit Center for Excellence, PTMS Vehicle Inventory (including vehicle disposals), and for providing guidance on the commercial driver license regulations.



**Matt Blackledge**

Matt has worked for MDOT's Real Estate Division for the past seven years, providing technical assistance to the Condemnation unit. Welcome, Matt!

The Transportation Services Section's Nonurban Unit welcomes two new project managers: Dean Peterson and Charles (Chuck) Lindstrom.

Dean Peterson joined PTD in late December. His area of responsibility has already shifted slightly and he's been a real trooper throughout the transition. He currently covers Allegan, Barry, Ionia, Kent, Montcalm, Muskegon, and Ottawa counties.



**Dean Peterson**

Dean has worn several hats before joining PTD. He worked for the Michigan Department of Corrections and was the editor and business manager of Michigan Farmer magazine. He brings with him a wealth of business experience, as well as broad-based communications experience (journalism, public speaking, teaching, and trade shows). Dean makes a great addition to the Passenger Transportation Division. Welcome, Dean!

We all know Joe Valente was irreplaceable, but we've found a brave soul who's agreed to give it a shot. Charles (Chuck) Lindstrom is the new project manager for the western Upper Peninsula and works out of the Ishpeming Transportation Service Center (TSC).



**Charles (Chuck) Lindstrom**

Chuck was previously an MDOT permits agent in the Ishpeming TSC and has been with MDOT for 10 years. His experience with contract administration, project planning, and customer service will be a big asset to PTD. Welcome, Chuck!

## Connie Benca Bids Farewell to PTD

After more than 24 years of service in MDOT, Connie Benca has decided to take a break. In January, Connie resigned her project manager position in the Transportation Services Section's Urban Unit where she represented transit interests in Ottawa, Muskegon, Kent, Ingham, Eaton and Clinton counties.

Connie's accomplishments include assisting Clinton County and the city of Holland in establishing Act 196 public transit systems and expanding their service areas. When asked, Connie said she is looking forward to sleeping in and to using her new membership at a local gym. Thank you, Connie, for your dedication to public transit and to public service.



**"Providing the highest quality transportation services for economic benefit and improved quality of life."**

# Michigan CDL Law Changes

Effective October 1, 2002, Michigan Public Act 534 of 2002 amended the Michigan Vehicle Code to revise some requirements for obtaining and maintaining a Commercial Drivers License (CDL). These changes were made to comply with recent requirements of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) which significantly strengthened the licensing and sanctioning requirements for the CDL program.

In view of these changes, let's review the CDL requirements for Michigan public transit drivers.

## Driving Record Eligibility Requirements

Any of the following will disqualify a driver from obtaining a CDL:

- inability to make required certifications on the CDL certification form
- having a license from more than one state
- a current suspension, revocation, denial, or cancellation of your driving privileges in Michigan or any other jurisdiction
- conviction of any six-point violation in the 24 months immediately preceding application
- conviction for operating a commercial motor vehicle (CMV) while impaired in the 24 months immediately preceding application
- a suspension or revocation in the 36 months immediately preceding application.

## Driver Medical Qualification Requirements for the CDL

In January 1996, the Michigan Public Act 265 adopted certain provisions of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations, including Part 391 which details medical qualifications for commercial truck and bus drivers. Act 265 confirmed federal regulations for Michigan intrastate operations, but excluded certain groups of drivers, including public transit bus drivers. Because public transit bus drivers are exempt from the law, they are not required to have or to carry a valid medical examiner's certificate or card to operate within the scope of their particular operation authority. However, MDOT encourages and supports the use of the FMCSA medical qualifications by the local agency as a condition of employment to maintain high standards for drivers and to ensure public safety.

## CDL Types and Endorsements

A group B designation will allow drivers to operate vehicles with gross vehicle weight ratings (GVWR) of 26,001 pounds or more. Unless certain restrictions apply, the Group B designation allows drivers to operate Group C vehicles. A group C designation will allow drivers to operate vehicles that are under 26,001 pounds GVWR designed to transport 16 or more persons (including the driver). For vehicles which are designed to carry 16 or more people (including the driver), a "P" (passenger) endorsement is needed in addition to the appropriate CDL group designation.

## Serious Traffic Violations While Driving a CMV

If convicted of certain traffic violations while operating a CMV, drivers are subject to stiffer penalties which may result in the suspension or revocation of the CDL. The operator/ chauffeur license may also be affected, depending on the severity of the violation. Any traffic violation in a non-commercial motor vehicle resulting in a suspension or revocation of the operator/chauffeur license will also result in a suspension or revocation of the CDL.

### *Serious Traffic Violations*

If charged and convicted for any of the five serious traffic violations listed below, the CDL will be: suspended for 60 days for two violations in separate incidents in three years; suspended for 120 days for three or more violations in separate incidents in three years. Additionally, points will be added to the driving record.

- A traffic violation connected with a fatal accident
- Speeding 15 mph or more over the posted limit
- Following too closely
- Careless driving
- Changing/using lanes erratically/improperly.

### *Other Serious Violations*

If charged and convicted for any of the five serious violations listed below, the CDL will be: suspended for one year for a first violation; revoked for a minimum of ten years for any two violations occurring in separate incidents, or any one of them a second time in any time period.

- Operating under the influence of a controlled substance



## Michigan CDL Law Changes *(continued)*

- Leaving the scene of a CMV accident
- Committing a felony using a CMV
- Manslaughter
- Fleeing/eluding a law enforcement officer (felony).

If charged and convicted of reckless driving, negligent homicide, or fleeing/eluding a law enforcement officer (misdemeanor), the CDL will be suspended for one year. If charged and convicted of committing a felony involving the manufacture or distribution of a controlled substance, the CDL will be revoked for life. Your operator/chauffeur license may also be suspended or revoked and points will be added to your driving record.

### *Railroad Crossing Violations*

If charged and convicted for any of the railroad crossing violations listed below, the CDL will be: suspended for 60 days for the first violation; suspended for 120 days for two violations in separate incidents in three years; suspended for one year for three or more violations in separate incidents in three years. Points will also be added to the driving record.

- Failure to slow down and check the tracks are clear of an approaching train
- Failure to stop before reaching the crossing when the tracks are not clear
- Failing to have sufficient space to drive completely through the crossing without stopping
- Failing to obey a traffic control device or the directions of an enforcement official at the crossing
- Failing to negotiate a crossing because of insufficient undercarriage clearance.

### Serious Alcohol Violations While Operating a CMV

CDL drivers will be placed out-of-service for 24 hours if they:

- Refuse to take a preliminary breath test (PBT)
- Consume alcohol within four hours prior to operating a CMV
- Consume alcohol while operating a CMV
- Have a bodily alcohol content (BAC) of .015 grams or more per 100 milliliters of blood, per 210 liters of breath, or per 67 milliliters of urine.

If a CMV driver refuses to submit to a chemical test (implied consent) or is convicted of any of the alcohol offenses listed below, the CDL will be suspended for one year for a first offense; revoked for a minimum for ten years for a second or third offense. Implied consent means

that any person who holds a CDL is considered to have agreed to such testing. Consent is implied by driving a motor vehicle. The driver's operator/chauffeur license may also be suspended or revoked and points may be added to the driving record.

- Operating with an unlawful bodily alcohol level (UBAL) of .10 grams or more
- Operating under the influence of liquor (OUIL)
- Operating while impaired (OWI) when your BAC is more than .07 but less than .10 grams
- Operating with a BAC of .04 to .07 grams
- OUIL, OWI, or UBAL causing death or serious injury
- Operating under the influence of drugs (OUID).

### CDL Consequences for Violations Committed While Operating Non-Commercial Vehicles

The CDL is a special privilege attached to the operator or chauffeur license. If, while operating any kind of motor vehicle, including a personal vehicle, a violation is committed that results in the suspension or revocation of the operator or chauffeur license, the CDL will be suspended or revoked for the same period.

### CMV Operator's Responsibilities Regarding Notification of Convictions and Suspensions

CDL drivers must notify their employer immediately in writing if their license is suspended, revoked, or canceled; if they are disqualified from driving; or if they receive any out-of-service order within 24 hours. CDL drivers must notify their employer in writing within 30 days of conviction for traffic violations (except parking) committed in any motor vehicle.

### Other CDL Rules to Know

No one may drive a commercial motor vehicle without a CDL. An employer may not let anyone drive a CMV that has more than one license or a suspended or revoked CDL.

All states are connected to one computerized system to share information about CDL drivers. The states will check on drivers' accident records and be sure that drivers don't have more than one CDL.

You can get a copy of the "Michigan Commercial Driver License Manual" at your nearest Secretary of State office, or you can view the manual online at [www.michigan.gov/sos](http://www.michigan.gov/sos).

## Dates to Remember



Managing Disability Leaves and Ask the Lawyer  
February 27, 2003: Bay City, MI  
MASSTrans, Vance Edwards 231/775-9411

Toolbox for Transit - Operator Fatigue: Putting  
the Report into Action  
March 10, 2003: San Jose, CA  
March 24, 2003: Kansas City, KS  
Federal Transit Administration (FTA)/National  
Transit Institute (NTI) 732/932-1700

Fundamentals of Bus Collision Investigation  
March 10-14, 2003: Phoenix, AZ  
FTA/Transportation Safety Institute (TSI)  
405/954-3682

Transit System Security  
March 10-14, 2003: Cleveland, OH  
May 5-9, 2003: Detroit, MI  
FTA/TSI 405/954-3682

Substance Abuse Training Session: Regulatory  
Overview and Best Practices  
March 11, 2003: Hickory, NC  
Federal Transit Administration 617/494-3798

Managing Disruptive Customers  
March 12, 2003: Doherty Hotel, Clare, MI  
MASSTrans, Vance Edwards 231/775-9411.

Innovative Strategies to Increase Ridership  
March 24-25, 2003: Milwaukee, WI  
University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee Center  
for Transportation Education 414/227-3181

Instructors Course in Bus Operator Training  
March 24-27, 2003: Cleveland, OH  
FTA/TSI 405/954-3682

NTI Transit Trainers Workshop 2003  
April 5-9, 2002: Salt Lake City  
[www.ntionline.com](http://www.ntionline.com)

Managing and Planning for Rural and Small  
Urban Systems  
April 28- May 1, 2003: Milwaukee, WI  
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee  
Center for Transportation Education 414/227-3181

How to Effectively Plan a Meeting  
April 30, 2003: Kalamazoo, MI  
Association for Commuter Transportation  
-Michigan Chapter  
Mary Ann Young 616/774-1167

Bus & Paratransit Conference  
May 4-8, 2003: Milwaukee, WI  
American Public Transportation Association  
202/496-4800

Community Transportation Expo  
May 18-23, 2003: Philadelphia, PA  
Community Transportation Association of America  
202/628-1480

Transit Vehicle and Equipment Seminar  
June 11-13, 2003: Higgins Lake, MI  
Jill Adams 517/373-2051

Who Moved My Cheese  
June 25, 2003: Brighton, MI  
Association for Commuter Transportation  
-Michigan Chapter  
Mary Ann Young 616/774-1167

Michigan Small Bus Roadeo  
July 16, 2003: Midland, MI  
Lisa Lubahn 517/241-1893

Association for Commuter Transportation  
- International Conference  
September 14-17, 2003: Salt Lake City, UT

## Call for Best Practices Issued

A “National Summit on Transportation for People with Disabilities in Rural Settings” is scheduled for June 16-17, 2003 in Indianapolis, Indiana. This will be a two-day invitational working conference of national leadership in transportation policy.

The hosting organization has issued a “Call for Best Practice Nominations” for “Driving Positive Change in Rural Transit.” The selected best practice examples will be included in the pre-Summit materials and four of the best practice nominees will be asked to present at the Summit and participate in the working sessions. The nomination submission deadline is Wednesday, March 1, 2003. Respond via e-mail to [pshankland@gpcpd.org](mailto:pshankland@gpcpd.org).

If you would like more information on the “Call for Best Practice Nominations,” contact the Indiana Governor’s Planning Council for People with Disabilities at 317/232-7770.

## Dates Set for the MTC

The 2003 Michigan Transit Conference (MTC) will be held on Tuesday, October 28 through Thursday, October 30, 2003 at the Amway Grand Plaza in Grand Rapids. Planning efforts are underway and PTD is soliciting volunteers to serve on the planning team. It is expected that there will be four planning team meetings held in Lansing to discuss the program and conference activities. If you are interested in serving on the planning team or if you have questions regarding the conference, please contact Lisa Funk at [funkl@michigan.gov](mailto:funkl@michigan.gov) or 517/373-8746.

If you do not want to serve on the team but would like to provide input, please contact the following PTD staff. Program ideas or suggestions for guest speakers should be directed to Wynell Brush at [brushw@michigan.gov](mailto:brushw@michigan.gov) or at 517/335-2594. Vendor information or questions, as well as suggestions for activities, should be directed to Jean Ruestman at [ruestmanj@michigan.gov](mailto:ruestmanj@michigan.gov) or 517/373-6625.

We look forward to hearing from you. Additional information regarding the program and registration will be forthcoming.

## DARTA Legislation *(continued from page 1)*

Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART) and the Detroit Department of Transportation (DDOT) based on a local agreement. SMART provides transit services in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and Monroe counties. Its 1,000 employees aid in the operation of 240 fixed route buses, 90 directly operated community transit vehicles, and 70 community-based vehicles. DDOT has provided transportation service within the boundaries of the city of Detroit for more than 75 years and is the largest bus transit provider in the state. Its 1,726 employees aid in the operation of 560 vehicles.

Under existing Michigan law, the RTCC cannot exercise any rights, duties, or powers provided to an authority and cannot employ operating personnel, negotiate collective bargaining agreements with operating personnel, or own operating assets of a public transportation service within the metropolitan area. DARTA will essentially combine the planning and coordinating powers of the RTCC with the operating powers of a transportation system authority. The proposed legislation will also re-establish SMART, since the act under which both the RTCC and SMART were formed - the Metropolitan Transportation Authorities Act of 1967 - will be repealed upon passage of the new legislation.

Other key components of the proposed legislation include:

- A chief executive officer for DARTA must be in place by March 2004.
- Within one year after the selection of the chief executive officer, DARTA must:
  - prepare a comprehensive regional public transportation services plan and update it annually (the plan must be presented to the Legislature, the Governor and MDOT), and
  - present to the Legislature and Governor recommendations for new legislation for a permanent funding mechanism to implement the regional transportation plan.

A list and brief description of the DARTA bills introduced in the 2003-2004 legislative session and their status as of February 7, 2003, is on the following page. The Michigan Legislature’s Web site is an excellent resource, if you would like to keep current on the status of these bills ([www.michiganlegislature.org](http://www.michiganlegislature.org)).

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## DARTA Legislation *(continued from page 11)*

<b>Bill</b>	<b>Primary Sponsor</b>	<b>Content</b>	<b>Status as of February 7, 2003</b>
<b>House Bill 4072</b>	Representative Clark Bisbee	Main DARTA bill - Creates and provides for Detroit Area Regional Transportation Authority and provides for continuation of SMART.	Amended and adopted by House Commerce Committee on 1/30/03. (H-4)
<b>House Bill 4073</b>	Representative Alma Stallworth	Companion bill - Amends Act 432 (Motor Bus Transportation Act) to have DARTA covered by the same provisions of Act 432 as other authorities.	Adopted by House Commerce Committee on 1/30/03. (As introduced on 1/28)
<b>House Bill 4074</b>	Representative Clark Bisbee	Companion bill - Amends Act 51 to make DARTA an eligible authority to receive Comprehensive Transportation Funds.	Adopted by House Commerce Committee on 1/30/03. (As introduced on 1/28)
<b>House Bill 4124</b>	Representative Mary Waters	Main DARTA bill - Creates and provides for Detroit Area Regional Transportation Authority and provides for continuation of SMART. Same as House Bill 4072 as introduced.	Introduced 1/30/2003 and referred to House Commerce Committee.
<b>Senate Bill 100</b>	Senator Burton Leland	Main DARTA bill - Creates and provides for Detroit Area Regional Transportation Authority and provides for continuation of SMART. Same as House Bill 4072 as introduced.	Introduced 1/29/03 and referred to Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor.
<b>Senate Bill 101</b>	Senator Jason Allen	Companion bill - Amends Act 432 (Motor Bus Transportation Act) to have DARTA covered by the same provisions of Act 432 as other authorities. Same as House Bill 4073 as introduced.	Introduced 1/29/03 and referred to Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor.
<b>Senate Bill 102</b>	Senator Michael Switalski	Companion bill - Amends Act 51 to make DARTA an eligible authority to receive Comprehensive Transportation Funds. Same as House Bill 4074 as introduced.	Introduced 1/29/03 and referred to Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor.